



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARIZONA MAN SENTENCED IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY, CO-DEFENDANT CONVICTED AT TRIAL, AWAITS SENTENCING

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Arizona man was sentenced in federal court today for conspiring to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine.

Lee Elmer Tate, 38, of Avondale, Ariz., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to 10 years and 11 months in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 16, 2004, **Tate** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine between Oct. 1, 2003, and Feb. 28, 2004.

Tate is one of two co-defendants convicted in this case.

Dana Enoch Kidd, Jr., 23, of St. Louis Park, Minn., was convicted by a federal jury following a two day jury trial on Oct. 26, 2004. The federal jury found **Kidd** guilty of conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine between Oct. 1, 2003, and Feb. 28, 2004. **Kidd** also was found guilty of aiding and abetting others in the possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine on Feb. 27, 2004.

At the time of their arrest, law enforcement officers had stopped **Tate** for speeding on Interstate 35 on Feb. 27, 2004, in the Cameron, Mo., area. **Kidd** was a passenger in the vehicle. After obtaining consent to search the vehicle, law enforcement officers discovered more than three kilograms of cocaine located under the carpet in the trunk.

Tate and **Kidd** were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 10, 2004, in Kansas City.

Under federal law, Graves explained, **Kidd** may be subject to a mandatory minimum

sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole and a fine up to \$2 million.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce A. Rhoades. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration Kansas City Interdiction Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow